



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT  
APRIL 12, 2012**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMUNITY MEETING**

<b>Special Meeting</b>	A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, April 12, 2012 Immediately following the Community Meeting at 7 p.m.
<b>Present</b>	Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo, Council members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Gerald E. Daley, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, Todd G. Berch, Deborah Kleckowski; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan; Sergeant-at-arms Officer Ingles; Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.
<b>Absent</b>	Mayor Daniel T. Drew and Council Members Hope P. Kasper and Philip J. Pessina.
<b>Also Present</b>	Twenty-four members of the public
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	The Deputy Mayor calls the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
<b>Call of Meeting Read</b>	<p>The Call of Meeting was read and accepted. Deputy Mayor Santangelo declares the Call a Legal Call and the Meeting a Legal meeting.</p> <p>Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan states we have a procedural matter to take up first. Chief McMahon's Attorney has filed a motion to recuse certain individuals, dated April 7, 2012 and we have to procedurally deal with that first.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilman Serra who states Mr. McMahon made a request to recuse myself and I will, but not for the reasons suggested in his motion. He doesn't want me to hear the case, so I will step aside and not for any reason listed in motion. He continues we want the process to be fair as he perceives it. Councilman Serra leaves the Council Chamber.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilman Klattenberg who states I also received a letter from Mr. McMahon and his Attorney, dated April 7 and they judged that I would not be able to hear this review of the performance issue in an unbiased manner and I patently disagree and Mr. McMahon, in the past, has said that I am one of the few that have been fair, open, and transparent and if they feel I can't be fair and review the process in an unbiased manner, then I will be recusing myself. Councilman Klattenberg leaves the Chamber.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilwoman Bartolotta who states she would like to make a statement and she was asked to recuse herself because some allegations made against my husband and they were untrue and it was unfortunate that the accusation was made in a hurtful and public way and for those reasons she will recuse herself from hearing the case and she asks that in the future he would not do it this way again. Councilwoman Bartolotta leaves the Chamber.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilman Berch who states I have the motion to recuse before me and regarding the issue concerning relationships and know about of Mr. McHugh. He will comply with that motion and recuse himself due to the fact I have a rapport with Mr. McHugh solely as a member of the Chamber of Commerce so therefore I will comply with the motion to recuse. Councilman Berch leaves the Chamber.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilman Daley who states I, too, will be recusing myself tonight and states why. Prior to the motion to recuse being served on us, I had every intention of participating in a fair and impartial review of termination. I voted against hiring Mr. McMahon as deputy and his nomination for chief on two occasions and the standard of hiring is much different than the standard of firing. For hiring, it is making a decision that he is the best qualified candidate for hire and I thought he was not for deputy; and when nominated twice for chief, I thought not and thought my assessment in those cases was correct and the standard of terminating, just</p>

cause lies with the employer and he was ready to assess if the City fired for just cause but I have to say I am compelled to recuse myself so Mr. McMahon is convinced he has a fair hearing. The motion was filled with inaccurate information and I view it as an attack on anyone involved with Xavier High School. I knew Larry as a coach and have known him in his professional capacity as Chamber president since the early 1980's and worked closely with him and was deeply offended by the attempt to sully his character. I knew Bill McKenna, Sr. as a teacher and a coach and the attack on him in this motion was offensive to me. Therefore, I no longer feel I can assure Mr. McMahon of fairness and impartiality and will recuse myself. Councilman Daley leaves the Chamber at this time.

Deputy Mayor Santangelo recognizes Councilman Faulkner who states I wasn't named in the paperwork that came through but I will recuse myself. I am on record twice not in favor of the gentleman here tonight and so I don't know if it would be considered prejudice so I will not participate. Councilman Faulkner leaves the Chamber.

Deputy Mayor Santangelo states he will recuse himself since he was named in the motion to recuse. I agree with many of my colleagues in the things said. I am also heavily involved with the Chamber and hold Larry McHugh in high regard. He states he will honor Mr. McMahon's and Attorney Rosenblatt's request and will remove myself. Deputy Mayor Santangelo leaves the Chamber.

Corporation Counsel Ryan states under the Charter, Chapter III, Section 3, a majority of members shall constitute a quorum and Roberts Rules of Order at page 346 says the same and it would be seven members and we do not have a quorum to conduct business tonight. There are three members absent and seven or eight members have recused themselves. Only three members remain.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Corporation Counsel Ryan asks for a motion. Councilman Bibisi moves to adjourn and is seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. Corporation Counsel Ryan states we have no choice and calls for the vote. It is unanimous with three aye votes. The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**MARIE O. NORWOOD**  
**Common Council Clerk**